

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. So then at 9:30, we will resume consideration of the resolution. We will have 30 minutes of debate, and the cloture vote will occur on the resolution. Senators can expect the first vote at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Following that vote, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate begin a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each with the following exceptions: Senator BROWNBACK, or his designee, the first 30 minutes; to be followed by Senator COVERDELL, or his designee, for 30 minutes; and Senator DURBIN, or his designee, for 60 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. If the cloture motion is agreed to, a final passage vote on the resolution is expected to occur during the day tomorrow, probably in the afternoon session, obviously. As a reminder, cloture was filed on the gas tax legislation, and pursuant to rule XXII, that vote will occur on Thursday at a time to be announced later after consultation between the two leaders.

The Senate will also begin consideration of the loan guarantees legislation as per the unanimous consent agreement.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now

ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk briefly about a matter that we have been especially concerned about in recent months, and that has to do with the Corps of Engineers.

Prior to that, I rise to express my disappointment that we were not able to get to the electronic signature bill conference report today. I thought we had worked out all of the problems. Now, as I understand it, there are some problems on the Republican side. I hope it won't be held up too much longer. We need to get on with that legislation, and we have been trying to move this bill to conference now for some time. We had worked out our concerns with regard to representation, and I was certain we would be able to finish that work today. But given the problems there now appear to be on the Republican side, I am hopeful we can resolve those no later than tomorrow.

I am reminded, again, as we file cloture, that the motion to invoke cloture is a motion to end debate. I am always amused by that phrase, "end debate." How do you end debate that you

haven't even started? That is what we are being asked to do on Thursday, end debate on a tax bill that didn't go to the committee, on a tax bill that hasn't had one hearing.

How is it that we would limit Senators' rights to offer amendments when those considerations are paramount as we consider a tax bill—a gas tax bill?

So we are very concerned about why it is we need to move rapidly to this legislation if it is this important, if it is this much a part of finding ways in which to provide relief. You would think that, consistent with past practice and consistent with the recognition of the importance of the issue, it at least would have been given a hearing or some consideration in committee. That has not happened.

(The remarks of Mr. DASCHLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2309 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:46 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 29, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.